



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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May 23, 2017

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The Honorable Trey Hollingsworth
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Hollingsworth:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our support of H.R. 2561, the Protecting Officers of the Law in Civilian Establishments (POLICE) Act of 2017, which would permit uniformed law enforcement officers to carry agency-issued firearms in certain Federal facilities.


NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

Currently, state and local law enforcement officers can only carry firearms on federal property when conducting "official business" or responding to an active crime situation. Despite being granted the right to carry by the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), officers are still prohibited from carrying their firearms in federal facilities open to the general public, such as the post office, the local Social Security Administration office, or a Veterans Affairs (VA) satellite medical office, unless they are there in the course of their official duties.

A uniformed state or local officer who needs to stop by the VA office for a medical appointment during her lunch break has to lock her service weapon in her car. This creates a safety issue as the gun could be stolen out of the car. Further, at a time when ambush attacks on law enforcement officers is at a five-year high, uniformed officers must be allowed to carry their service weapons, whether they are on duty or on personal time, for the protection of themselves and those citizens in the federal facilities they are visiting.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,


William J. Johnson
Executive Director